

Application No. 10/751,092

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-19, 23, 24 and 26 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 7, 20-22 and 25 are cancelled, claims 1, 8-10 and 23 are amended and claim 26 is added. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by, for example, original claim 7, and the amendment to claim 23 is supported by, for example, original claims 1 and 7. New claim 26 is supported by, for example, original Fig. 1. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Applicant submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on July 7, 2004, but has not received an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449. Applicant respectfully requests a copy of Form PTO-1449 showing that the Examiner has considered the submitted references.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 13-17 and 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,180,319 to France in view of U.S. Patent 3,205,860 to Moore. The Examiner also indicated that claims 7-12, 18 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. All of the features of dependent claim 7 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and thus the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6 and 13-17 are moot. Additionally, Applicant submits that claim 24, which combines all of the features of originally filed claims 1 and 19, is allowable. As amended, claim 23 also incorporates all of the features of original claims 1 and 7, and thus the Examiner's rejection of claim 23 is moot.

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claim 1-6, 13-17, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,180,319 to France in view of U.S. Patent 3,205,860 to Moore.

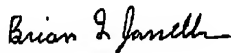
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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